

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, CA, MX

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO MEXICO: A SUCCESSFUL GOODWILL GESTURE

REF: A) MEXICO 1052 B) MEXICO 1074 C) OTTAWA 0185

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO MEXICO JAN 23-26 WAS, ABOVE ALL ELSE, A PUBLIC RELATIONS SUCCESS. TRUDEAU HANDLED POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT ISSUES WITH APLOMB. HE MADE FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON CERDS AND NIEO WITHOUT MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS. EXCEPT FOR A CULTURAL AGREEMENT, NO CONCRETE AGREEMENTS WERE CONCLUDED DURING THE VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. ECHEVERRIA-TRUDEAU TALKS: A CANADIAN EMBASSY CONTACT REPORTS THAT TRUDEAU AND HIS PARTY WERE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE ECHEVERRIA WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) AND OTHER THIRD WORLD TOPICS DURING HIS TALKS WITH TRUDEAU. IN ADDITION, OUR CONTACT REPORTED THAT ABOUT TEN DAYS BEFORE TRUDEAU ARRIVED, A HIGH RANKING FOREIGN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL HAD SUGGESTED TO CANADIAN AMBASSADOR LANGLEY THAT IT WOULD BE "WARMLY RECEIVED" IF PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU WERE TO COMMENT FAVORABLY ON THE THIRD WORLD UNIVERSITY WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED IN MEXICO CITY. THE CANADIAN EMBASSY WAS CAUGHT OFF BALANCE BY THIS SUGGESTION. SINCE NO ONE THERE HAD PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO OR

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DEVELOPED A FILE ON THE UNIVERSITY, THEY HAD TO SCRAMBLE FOR

INFORMATION ON IT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S USE. THE CANADIANS WERE ALSO SURPRISED WHEN THE MEXICANS URGED INCLUDING A PARAGRAPH ON THE UNIVERSITY IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ALL OF THIS HAS LED CANADIAN EMBOFFS TO GIVE MORE CREDENCE TO RUMORS THAT ECHEVERRIA PLANS TO HEAD THE UNIVERSITY AFTER HE LEAVES THE PRESIDENCY NEXT DECEMBER 1.

3. AGREEMENTS: ALTHOUGH A CULTURAL AGREEMENT WAS THE ONLY ONE SIGNED DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT, THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE LISTED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AS PROMISING POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE AGREEMENTS: NUCLEAR ENERGY (SEE REFTTEL B), AGRICULTURE, CATTLE INDUSTRY, AND THE PRODUCTION OF RAILWAY CARS AND STOL AIRCRAFT. IN ADDITION, THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO CALLS FOR REVISION OF THE BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT "IN ORDER TO PRO-

VIDE FURTHER BALANCED AIR SERVICES FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES."

4. JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S FAVORABLE BUT NONCOMMITTAL COMMENTS ON THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (SEE REF A) AND PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S COMMENTS ON ANGOLA (REPORTED SEPTTEL) AND ON MEXICO'S ZIONISM VOTE. IN DISCUSSING THE ZIONISM VOTE, THE MEXICAN LEADER REITERATED THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE ANTI-ISRAEL AND PROCLAIMED THAT HIS COUNTRY HAS CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND TREATS BOTH ISRAEL AND MEXICO'S JEWS FAIRLY. PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY IS STUDYING FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE OAS AND DISCUSSING THIS WITH ECHEVERRIA AND OTHER LATIN LEADERS. SINCE THE OAS IS IN THE MIDST OF REORGANIZING ITSELF, TRUDEAU ADDED, HE DID NOT THINK THE TIMING WAS RIGHT FOR CANADA TO JOIN, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. ALTHOUGH TRUDEAU LAMENTED THE FACT THAT MUCH OF THE MEXICAN-CANADIAN TRADE IS HANDLED THROUGH THIRD PARTIES, I.E. THE U.S., OUR CANADIAN EMBASSY CONTACT REPORTS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT SEES LITTLE PROSPECT OF AND ONLY MARGINAL GAINS FROM TRYING TO REPLACE THE TRIANGULAR TRADE WITH DIRECT TRADE. IN EFFECT, TRUDEAU'S STATEMENT WAS SIMPLY LIP SERVICE TO AN ISSUE ON WHICH THE MEXICANS HAVE FREQUENTLY PRESSED THE CANADIANS IN THEIR BILATERAL CONTACTS.

5. JOINT COMMUNIQUE: TWO OTHER TOPICS IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE
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ARE NOTEWORTHY. AFTER THE TWO LEADERS "EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE CLOSE COLLABORATION...BETWEEN THE MEXICAN AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS TO THE (LOS) CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA NOTED THAT MEXICO HAS TAKEN UNILATERAL MEASURES TO ESTABLISH AN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AND TRUDEAU EXPLAINED THAT "CANADA HAS, FOR THE TIME BEING, OPTED FOR A DIFFERENT COURSE." AFTER AFFIRMING THE VALUE OF GREAT POWER DETENTE, THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO STATES THAT THE "TWO STATESMEN WERE

AGREED THAT THESE TWO POWERS HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO COME TO A MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS AND QUALITATIVE LIMITATIONS IN THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS." OUR CANADIAN EMBASSY CONTACT REPORTS THAT THE MEXICANS EXERTED PRESSURE TO INCLUDE DISARMAMENT LANGUAGE IN THE COMMUNIQUE. IN FACT, MEXICAN FONSEC GARCIA ROBLES, ARCHITECT OF MEXICO'S DISARMAMENT POLICY, HELD FORTH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF GOM DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES AT GREAT LENGTH DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH TRUDEAU, MUCH TO THE LATTER'S DISMAY. (ENGLISH TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE BEING POUCHED TO ALL ADDRESSEES.)

6. TALKS BETWEEN TRUDEAU AND LOPEZ PORTILLO: PRESS REPORTS DO NOT INDICATE AT WHOSE INITIATIVE THE TALKS WERE HELD. HOWEVER, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO, THE RULING PRI'S CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, TOOK TIME OUT OF HIS BUSY CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE TO MAKE A SPECIAL TRIP FROM CENTRAL TO SOUTHERN MEXICO IN ORDER TO MEET WITH TRUDEAU. SKETCHY PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED ENERGY PROBLEMS AND FOOD POLICY AND THAT THEY MET PRIVATELY WITHOUT INTERPRETERS OR ANY OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT EXCEPT PRI PARTY PRESIDENT PORFIRIO MUNOZ LEDO. TRUDEAU REPORTEDLY STATED THAT CANADA WILL NEVER USE ITS IMMENSE PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AS A WEAPON.

7. TRUDEAU'S STYLE: THE CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER MADE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION BY MAKING SOME OF HIS SPEECHES AND PRESS CONFERENCE REPLIES IN SPANISH (SEE REF C). ALTHOUGH HE HAD OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS WITH HIS VOCABULARY, FLUENCY, AND PRONUNCIATION, HE HANDLED THESE WITH APLOMB. AT ONE POINT WHEN HE WAS UNABLE TO PRONOUNCE A WORD IN THE TEXT OF HIS SPEECH, HE TURNED TO ECHEVERRIA WITH A SMILE AND ASKED FOR HELP. NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRUDEAU VISITING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN TENNIS SHOES WITH HIS INFANT SON ON HIS BACK APPEARED IN

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THE MEXICAN PRESS. WE SUSPECT THAT THIS MUST HAVE PROVOKED SOME AMUSED SMILES AMONG MEXICAN MEN WHO REGARD TENDING INFANTS AS WOMENS WORK.

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